

Proposed Draft Schedule for Completing Marine Relocation Consultation

4 October 2016

The USFWS and the DON share an objective to minimize delays in the Marine Relocation Section 7 consultation process, but recognize that the timeline is dependent on timely and complete information transfer on several species. This schedule identifies tentative dates for actions, work products, and other relevant information to set expectations of the USFWS and DON. The proposed timeline includes a phased sharing of information with the Jeopardy analysis by the USFWS happening after receipt of the last information transfer. The goal is that by the Phase 2 data transfer, the DON will have provided a comprehensive data set to the USFWS on which a completed Biological Opinion can be based. This comprehensive data set is to include GIS layers and metadata, survey information, any relevant scientific papers, comments on the working draft BO (from July 2016), and information presented at the August 23/24 meeting on Oahu to address, among other things, new information on *Tuberlabium guamense* and the Mariana Eight Spot Butterfly as well as other species (refer to meeting notes). The complete information transfer would also include a detailed explanation of proposed conservation measures and their certainty of implementation and effectiveness (e.g., to clarify and provide specifics on intent and success of techniques; Fire Management Plan; salvage, captive propagation, and outplanting of butterflies and host plants; orchid translocation, ungulate fence at Ritidian Point, etc). The most appropriate form for the information transfer is in the form of a biological assessment for the implicated species which will facilitate the timely development of a final biological opinion.

The USFWS shares the DON's objective to minimize delays in this important consultation, and at the same time recognizes that the timeline can and will be revised if FWS continues to find the action may jeopardize any of the implicated species to allow for time to discuss reasonable and prudent alternatives that might allow the DON to avoid jeopardizing these species. Both the USFWS and the DON are hopeful that biweekly conference calls will eliminate any surprises and minimize any delays.

14-Oct	Phase 1 Data transfer: DON provides GIS coverages, metadata, maps and assessment regarding <i>Tuberlabium guamense</i> , particularly any new information that is informative on edge effect analysis, to FWS. FWS will not begin Jeopardy analysis, but will use the GIS data to investigate the approach to edge effect and buffer questions as well as other issues that will be informative to the eventual Jeopardy analysis.
28-Oct	DON and FWS biweekly phone conferences begin to discuss specific topics
16-Nov	DON and FWS phone conference: (1) Discuss progress on FWS's analysis on edge effect and buffers
30-Nov	DON and FWS phone conference: (1) Discuss progress on DON's Mariana eight-spot butterfly surveys and any further work

Day 0 (Day FWS receives DON final information transfer)	Phase 2 Data transfer: DON provides all remaining information, including Mariana eight-spot butterfly and host plant surveys and analysis; five remaining species (<i>Bulbophyllum guamense</i> , <i>Dendrobium guamense</i> , <i>Heritiera longipetiolata</i> , <i>Tabernaemontana rotensis</i> , <i>Cycas micronesica</i>); any further survey work including any additional information on <i>Tuberlabium guamense</i> ; and comments on draft biological opinion. Recognizing few personnel will be available over the holidays, both FWS and DON commit to do their best to work through the holiday season.
Day 14	Re-initiate biweekly calls between DON and FWS: issues to be determined
Day 30	FWS will determine whether data is adequate to initiate the consultation timeline of 135 days to deliver a final biological opinion; if data is determined to not be adequate FWS and DON will discuss the remaining timeline
Day 90	FWS provides draft biological opinion to DON (~90 days), depending on analyses and discussions on phone calls.
Day 107	DON provides comments on draft biological opinion to FWS
Day 135	Barring any outstanding issues or submittal of additional information after Phase 2 data transfer from DON, FWS provides final biological opinion to DON; DON is able to extend the consultation at any time with a formal written request to the FWS.